

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1 A communication system for communicating through a network, comprising:  
2      a general purpose node electrically connected to the network for providing access  
3      through the network, the general purpose node having a communication device;  
4      at least one media device connected to the network; and  
5      a portable access unit capable of wirelessly communicating with the general  
6      purpose node for communicating with the media device through the network.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the media device comprises a camera for providing video  
2 signals for display on the portable access unit.

1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the media device comprises a display for receiving video  
2 signals transmitted from the portable access unit for presenting on the display.

1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the media device comprises a speaker for receiving audio  
2 signals transmitted from the portable access unit for presenting on the speaker.

1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the media device is a microphone for transmitting audio  
2 signals to the portable access unit for presenting on a speaker attached to the portable  
3 access unit.

*b6* 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the media device comprises processor.

1 7. The system of claim 6, wherein the portable access unit is for providing commands for  
2 controlling the processor.  
*b7*

1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the processor is for providing commands for controlling  
2 remotely controllable hardware.  
*b3*

- 1 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the portable access unit further comprises a sensor for  
2 transmitting data signals collected by the sensor to the media device.
- 1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the sensor comprises a biological sensor.
- 1 11. The system of claim 9, wherein the sensor comprises an environmental sensor.
- 1 12. The system of claim 1, wherein the media device comprises a sensor for transmitting  
2 signals comprising data collected by the sensor to the local portable access unit.
- 1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the sensor comprises a biological sensor.
- 1 14. The system of claim 12, wherein the sensor comprises an environmental sensor.
- 1 15. The system of claim 1, wherein the media device is wirelessly connected to the network.
- 1 16. The system of claim 1, wherein the media device is electrically connected to the network.
- 1 17. The system of claim 1, comprising a plurality of portable access units capable of  
2 wirelessly communicating with the general purpose node for communicating with the one  
3 or more media devices through the network.
- 1 18. The system of claim 17, comprising a plurality of general purpose nodes, each local  
2 general purpose node for communicating with a subset of the plurality of portable access  
3 units.
- 1 19. The system of claim 18, wherein each portable access unit is for dynamically associating  
2 and de-associating with one of the plurality of general purpose nodes.

- 1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein each portable access unit is adopted for listing on a  
2 display the plurality of portable access units that are associated with the plurality of  
3 general purpose nodes.
- 1 21. The system of claim 19, wherein each portable access unit is adopted for listing on a  
2 display the plurality of media devices.
- 1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein each portable access unit is adapted to present on the  
2 display the biological data for a user of at least one of the other portable access units after  
3 selecting the at least one other portable access unit displayed in the list.
- 1 23. A method for communicating through a network with least one media device connected  
2 to the network, comprising:  
3 providing access to the network with a general purpose node electrically  
4 connected to the network, the general purpose node having a wireless communication  
5 device; and  
6 communicating wirelessly with the remote media device through the general  
7 purpose node and the network with a portable access unit that is in wireless  
8 communication with the general purpose node.
- 1 24. The method of claim 23, comprising receiving video signals from the media device for  
2 providing video signals for display on the portable access unit.
- 1 25. The method of claim 23, comprising transmitting video signals from the portable access  
2 unit to the media device for presenting the video signals on the media device.
- 1 26. The method of claim 23, comprising transmitting audio signals from the portable access  
2 unit to the media device for presenting the audio signals on the media device.

- 1 27. The method of claim 23, comprising receiving audio signals captured by the remote  
2 media device from the remote media device for presenting on the portable access unit.
- 1 28. The method of claim 23, comprising transmitting commands from the portable access  
2 unit to the media device for controlling the media device.
- 1 29. The method of claim 23, comprising receiving data captured by a sensor on the media  
2 device.
- 1 30. The method of claim 23, comprising dynamically associating and de-associating the  
2 portable access unit with the general purpose nodes.
- 1 31. The method of claim 30, comprising presenting a list of a plurality of portable access  
2 units on a display that are associated with the general purpose node.
- 1 32. The method of claim 31, comprising listing on the display a plurality of media devices  
2 associated with the general purpose node.
- 1 33. The method of claim 23, comprising presenting biological data for a user of one of a  
2 plurality of portable access units after selecting the user's name from a list of users of the  
3 plurality of portable access units.

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